

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2006
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1649

Introduced by Senator Alarcon
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Montanez)

February 24, 2006

An act to add Part 5 (commencing with Section 71400) to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks and recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1649, as amended, Alarcon. Parks and recreation: Outdoor Environmental Education Program.

Existing law establishes the California Environmental Protection License Plate Fund whose moneys are used for, among other things, environmental education programs. Existing law establishes the Office of Education and Environment in the Integrated Waste Management Board for the purpose of implementing a statewide environmental education program.

This bill would establish the Outdoor Environmental Education Program, to be administered by the Director of Parks and Recreation, for the purpose of increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor activities and educational experiences by awarding grants to formal school programs and informal public education programs. The bill would create the Outdoor Environmental Education Fund in the State Treasury—and *that*, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would be used for awarding grants pursuant to the program. The bill would require the

Controller to transfer to the fund from the California Environmental License Plate Fund, the amount appropriated by the Legislature, for each fiscal year for the implementation of the program. The bill would require the director, ~~in consultation with the California Environmental Education Interagency Network~~, to develop program components, including, but not limited to, criteria for awarding grants, and staffing and budget needs. The bill would require the California Environmental Education Interagency Network to serve as an advisor to the director in developing the program components. The bill would require the director to give priority for funding, where feasible, to outdoor environmental education programs with specified attributes. The bill would require the director to submit, by January 1, 2008, to the Governor and the Legislature a report and recommendation for the implementation of the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The State of California established the Environmental
- 4 Protection Program in 1970 funded with revenues from the sale
- 5 of environmental license plates. A primary purpose of this
- 6 program is to fund environmental education.
- 7 (b) The California Environmental Education Interagency
- 8 Network (CEEIN) was established in 1993 as a consortium of
- 9 environmental educators representing departments, boards, and
- 10 commissions of the State Department of Education, the
- 11 California Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources
- 12 Agency, and the Department of Food and Agriculture. The
- 13 primary goals of CEEIN are to develop a unified response to the
- 14 environmental education needs of California's educators and
- 15 local governments, and to assist with the statewide educational
- 16 reform movements.
- 17 (c) The Legislature enacted Chapter 663 of the Statutes of
- 18 2003, which established the Outdoor Environmental Education
- 19 Program and required a study on the benefits of outdoor
- 20 environmental education for at-risk youth and underserved
- 21 demographic groups. The study found that the science test scores

1 of children who participated in these programs were raised by 27
2 percent, and these children also had improved conflict resolution
3 and problem solving skills, self-esteem, and motivation to learn.
4 This program ended on January 1, 2006.

5 (d) Outdoor education assists with the obesity problems in
6 children.

7 SEC. 2. Part 5 (commencing with Section 71400) is added to
8 Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

9
10 PART 5. OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

11
12 71400. As used in this part, the following terms mean the
13 following:

14 (a) "Director" means the Director of Parks and Recreation.

15 (b) "Fund" means the Outdoor Environmental Education Fund
16 established pursuant to Section 71402.

17 (c) "Program" means the Outdoor Environmental Education
18 Program established pursuant to Section 71401.

19 71401. There is hereby established the Outdoor
20 Environmental Education Program in the Department of Parks
21 and Recreation for the purpose of increasing the ability of
22 underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor
23 activities and educational experiences by awarding grants to
24 formal school programs and informal public education programs.

25 71402. (a) There is hereby established the Outdoor
26 Environmental Education Fund in the State Treasury ~~and that~~,
27 upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be used for awarding
28 grants to qualified outdoor environmental education programs
29 pursuant to this part.

30 (b) The fund shall be capitalized by a transfer of moneys from
31 the California Environmental License Plate Fund established
32 pursuant to Section 21191 and from donations accepted by the
33 ~~secretary~~ director pursuant to Section 71404.

34 (c) The Controller shall transfer from the California
35 Environmental License Plate Fund to the fund the amount
36 appropriated by the Legislature for each fiscal year for the
37 implementation of the program.

38 71403. The director shall do all of the following:

39 (a) Administer the program to ensure that priority is given to
40 underserved populations, including both urban and rural areas

1 and low-income communities where participation in an outdoor
2 education program has been limited.

3 (b) (1) Develop the components of the program and fund,
4 including, but not limited to, criteria for awarding grants, and
5 staffing and budget needs.

6 (2) The California Environmental Education Interagency
7 Network (CEEIN) shall serve as advisor to the director in
8 developing the program components. ~~The CEEIN may utilize~~
9 ~~private environmental entities with experience in outdoor~~
10 ~~education programs to assist in advising the director.~~

11 (3) In developing the criteria for awarding grant moneys, the
12 director shall give priority for funding, where feasible, to outdoor
13 environmental education programs that have the following
14 attributes:

15 (A) Serves primarily at-risk youth and underserved
16 demographic groups.

17 (B) Is a partnership between public and private entities.

18 (C) Contributes to healthy lifestyles, including sound nutrition
19 and outdoor exercise.

20 (D) Has a community recycling component.

21 (E) Maximizes the number of participants that can be served.

22 (F) Commits in-kind resources to the outdoor environmental
23 education program.

24 (G) Has a curriculum that *is aligned to the science content*
25 *standards for California public schools adopted by the State*
26 *Board of Education*, fosters stewardship of the environment, and
27 includes, when available, curriculum established pursuant to
28 Chapter 663 of the Statutes of 2003.

29 (H) Includes service learning and community outreach
30 components for the purpose of building partnerships between
31 participants and local communities.

32 (c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code,
33 submit, on or before January 1, 2008, a report and
34 recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature on the
35 implementation of the program.

36 71404. The director may accept and shall deposit into the
37 fund voluntary private donations made for the support of the
38 program.

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